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Applicants add new claim 13. Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application.

Applicants amend claims 1, 10, and 11 for clarification, and add new claim 13 to round out the scope of the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 6, 9, and 12.

Claims 1-3, 8, 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0075119 to Sheha et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111154 to Eldering et al.; claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,545 to Belcea; and claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,230,061 to Welch. Applicants amend claims 1, 10, and 11 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner maintained that the combination of Sheha et al. and Eldering et al. would have suggested the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully point out that such a combination would have, at most, suggested providing information based on predicted location, the prediction being based on the techniques described in the cited references. Neither reference discloses the claimed features of the mobile information terminal responding to distributed and reported information, and the computer system relaying the response to the selected information-provider terminal. The Examiner cited portions of Sheha et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed feature *these features* of the mobile information terminal responding. The cited portions of Sheha et al. only describe, *from the mobile information terminal*

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however, a mobile terminal periodically updating its location to a server. Therefore, such portions of Sheha et al., at most, suggest the mobile information terminal providing and updating location information to the computer system, and do not disclose or suggest the claimed feature of the mobile information terminal responding to distributed and reported information.

Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., such a combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a]n information distribution service system comprising a plurality of mobile information terminals, a computer system and a plurality of information-provider terminals wherein said mobile information terminals, said computer system and said information-provider terminals are connected to each other by a communication network,

wherein said computer system finds a moving speed of a mobile information terminal from location information accumulated in the past, and predicts the mobile information terminal's moving destination, moving direction, and an expected time of arrival of said mobile information terminal at the moving destination by inferring said mobile-information terminal's location displacements along a time series on the basis of information on the moving speed and locations of said mobile information terminal including a pre-registered information category whose information distribution service, distribution and notification are desired, and on the basis of an inference formula provided in advance with said mobile information terminal's moving direction and location;

said computer system determines an information-provider terminal predicted to exist at said predicted moving destination of said mobile information terminal on the basis of locations of information-provider terminals pre-recording plans to distribute information as a notification, and determines distributed and reported information corresponding to an information category registered in advance by said mobile information terminal among pieces of information to be provided by said selected information-provider terminal on the basis of the expected time of arrival of said mobile information terminal at the moving destination, and distributes and reports said distributed and reported information

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among pieces of information to be provided by said selected information-provider terminal to said mobile information terminal; said mobile information terminal responds to said distributed and reported information by said computer system; and said computer system notifies said selected information-provider terminal of response information to said distributed and reported information from said mobile information terminal," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2-3, 8, 10-11, and 13 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. The Examiner relied upon Belcea and Welch as additional combining references to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 4-5 and 7, respectively. As such, the combination of these additional references would not cure the above-described deficiencies of Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such combinations would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-5 and 7 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons with respect to claim 1, from which they depend.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

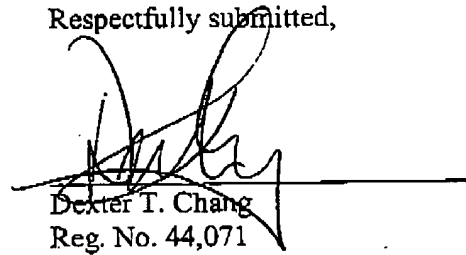
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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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